

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
ESHER



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ended December 31st, 1941.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ESHER.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR FINCH (*Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR EDWARDS.

COUNCILLOR SPEED.

„ GIBBONS.

„ THOMPSON.

„ LOWE.

„ TODD.

„ MARRIN

„ WALTERS.

„ PIKE.

„ WHEATCROFT.

„ SIMPSON.

„ WILSON.

Ex-Officio Members :

COUNCILLOR T. W. CLAYTON, J.P.

(*Chairman of the Council*).

COUNCILLOR L. FRANKS (*Vice-Chairman of the Council*).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Personnel.

Medical Officer of Health :

*J. FANNING, M.D. B.S. (London) D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

*REGINALD F. WHEELER, M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.,
M.S.I.A. Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute
as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and
other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

*JOHN C. ARMSTRONG, M.S.I.A., Cert. R. San. I., Certifi-
cates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary
Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

*JOHN W. HOBSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certificates of
the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector,
Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and in Sanitary
Science.

Clerks :

MISS M. E. WEDDERBURN.

J. M. BELL (Serving with H.M. Forces as from 3/9/39).

C. F. PACKHAM („ „ „ „ „ „ 27/9/41).

MRS. AKERS (Clerk dealing with Civil Defence Casualty
Services).

Mortuary Keeper and Disinfector :

J. DOLLEY.

Clerk and Solicitor of the Council :

FREDERICK EDWARDS.

Public Analyst.

ED. HINKS, F.I.C.

*Contribution of salary made from the Exchequer.

Urban District of Esher.

COUNCIL OFFICES.

ESHER.

June, 1942.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1941, which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2314.

In view of the expressed wish of the Minister that interim reports only should be made, and that they should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year, the report has been abbreviated as much as possible.

Vital statistics on the whole remain strikingly good, in spite of the strain of war conditions.

I should like to record my appreciation of the work of the sanitary and clerical staff of the department, who have always co-operated most willingly on every occasion.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. FANNING, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	14,847
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...	...	...	...	...	45,310
Number of inhabited houses—end of 1941—according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	13,760
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£631,446
Product of a penny rate 1941/42	...	...	...	...	...	£2,465

Extracts from Vital Statistics :—

Live Births	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	614	306	308
Illegitimate	34	19	15
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—14.30.			

	Total.	M.	F.
Still Births	19	10	9
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—28.58.			

Deaths—Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—11.61.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	2.
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	3.00

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	41.73
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	42.41
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	29.41

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	247	279
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	1
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	1
5. Diphtheria	1	1
6. Tuberculosis—respiratory	8	13
7. Other tuberculosis	3	2
8. Syphilitic diseases	3	—
9. Influenza	1	5
10. Measles	2	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—
12. Acute inf. encephalitis	—	2
13. Cancer (of buccal cavity; and oesophagus (M) uterus (F))	2	6
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	7
15. Cancer of breast	—	7
16. Cancer of all other sites	29	23
17. Diabetes	1	4
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	18	31
19. Heart Disease	70	65
20. Other circulatory disease	8	10
21. Bronchitis	10	11
22. Pneumonia	16	12
23. Other respiratory diseases	4	6
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	5	3
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	4
26. Appendicitis	2	4
27. Other digestive diseases	7	6
28. Nephritis	9	4
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	2
31. Premature birth	3	3
32. Congenital debility	7	3
33. Suicide	4	3
34. Road Traffic accidents	5	2
35. Other violent causes	9	9
36. All other causes	14	29

DEATHS.—AGE GROUPS.

STATEMENT SHOWING WHERE DEATHS OCCURRED.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality,¹ Maternal Mortality, and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1941. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns

	England and Wales	126 C Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County
Live Births	14.2 +	14.7	16.4	8.9
Still Births	0.51 +	0.58	0.60	0.33
Deaths:—				
All Causes	12.9 +	14.9	13.0	16.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.03
Influenza	0.19	0.17	0.20	0.15
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Notifications:—				
Typhoid Fever	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04
Paratyphoid	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.05
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.25	0.31	0.20	0.30
Scarlet Fever	1.47	1.40	1.51	1.01
Whooping Cough	4.30	4.37	4.50	3.50
Diphtheria	1.25	1.53	1.19	0.93
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.27	0.50
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	10.33	8.27	10.47	4.77
Pneumonia	1.25	1.53	1.04	1.07

+ These rates are those published in the Quarterly Return.

* These rates are those published in the Quarterly Return.

Table showing rainfall in the District during 1941. The observations were taken at the Sewage Farm, Esher.

January	...	...	...	...	3.13 ins
February	...	...	...	...	2.43 „
March	...	...	...	...	3.90 „
April	...	...	...	...	1.12 „
May	...	...	...	...	1.13 „
June	...	...	...	...	2.49 „
July	...	...	...	...	3.32 „
August	...	...	...	...	5.02 „
September	...	...	...	...	0.41 „
October	...	...	...	...	0.86 „
November	...	...	...	...	2.52 „
December	...	...	...	...	1.65 „
					<hr/>
					27.98 ins
Rainfall — 1937	...	...	...	...	37.70
1938	...	...	...	...	24.13
1939	...	...	...	...	36.52
1940	...	...	...	...	28.52
1941	...	...	...	...	27.98
					<hr/>
Average for past five years	...	...	...	...	30.97

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(1) The Staff of the Public Health Department is set out at the beginning of this report.

The provisions of health services in the area remains substantially unaltered from those set out in recent annual reports.

The following table shows the number of pathological examinations during the year under review :—

Disease.			Results.			
			Posi- tive.	Nega- tive.	Totals.	
Tuberculosis	...	...	Faeces	2	2	
Tuberculosis	Sputa	5	104	109
Streptococcal diseases	Swabs	3	10	13
Diphtheria	Swabs	8	160	168
Paratyphoid	Faeces	1	8	9
do. -	Blood	2	2	
Suspected Food, etc.		2	2	
Totals				17	288	305

A number of samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, details of which will be found under Section E.

The number of bodies received into the public mortuary was as follows :—

For post-mortem examination and inquest	...	...	19
For Post-mortem examination only	...	...	25
To await burial	...	...	Nil
War Operations	...	...	Nil

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water.*—The water provided by the two main water undertakers who supply the district has remained above suspicion.

The periodical inspection and sampling of the wells in use in the rural parts of the district were continued, and ten samples of water from this source were submitted for examination all of which were satisfactory. Eleven other samples of water were examined from other sources.

Steps have been taken to classify potential sources of drinking water supply which might have to be called on for emergency purposes. In the case of most of these sources some measure of purification would be necessary, and preparations have been made with this object in view.

2. *Drainage and Sewerage.*—I am indebted to Mr. Fread, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor for the following information.

MOLESEY SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS. A scheme for dealing with the increased flow of sewage at these works will shortly be put in hand. The works are necessary to deal with the increased flow of sewage and to the establishment of works recently put into operation in connection with salvage.

ESIHER SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS. These works have been provided with additional means of pumping and it is hoped to put in hand further works (already approved) for the filtration of sewage.

COBHAM SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS. The plant at these works continues to give a satisfactory result, but increased plant for filtration purposes may soon become necessary. Development works have ceased, but several minor extensions of sewers have taken place due to war-time building operations.

ONSHOTT. The scheme for main drainage for the Oxshott area is now well advanced and in a short time it is hoped that connections of houses where cesspool drainage still exists will be made to the new sewers.

3. *Rivers and Streams*.—Attention has been given to several sources of pollution. Examinations of public watercourses have been made to ensure that connections of an improper character are diverted to the public sewers.

4. (i) *Public Cleansing*.—The arrangements for the collection of house refuse are unchanged.

(ii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*.—The tabular statement furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector is included in his report which is appended to this one.

(iii) *Shops*.—No formal action under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934 has been found necessary. Full details and results of informal notices are recorded in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

(iv) *Smoke Abatement*.—In certain cases complaints have been received in regard to the emission of smoke from factory chimneys but the conditions have usually been such as to render formal action unnecessary or undesirable. Labour shortage and other conditions resulting from the national emergency have made it extremely difficult for those in control of factories to do all that is desirable.

The Sanitary Inspectors have kept in close touch with offenders and whenever possible by persuasion and advice have done their best to ameliorate smoke nuisances.

(v) *Eradication of Bed Bugs*.—

(1) Council Houses :—	Inspected for vermin	...	...	31
	Found to be infested	...	...	31
	Disinfested	...	...	31

These Council Houses were treated with Hydrogen Cyanide gas by a specialist firm.

(2) Other houses :—	Inspected for vermin	...	...	29
	Found to be infested	...	...	27
	Disinfested	...	...	27

One of these houses was treated with Hydrogen Cyanide gas by a specialist firm.

5. *Schools*.—The number of children attending the elementary schools at the end of 1941 was :—

				No. of Children on the Schools' Register	No. of Children who Attended
Claygate Council ...	...	...	...	225	144
Cobham Council ...	...	...	...	138	117
East Molesey Council ...	...	...	...	110	65
Hinchley Wood Central ...	...	...	...	320	223
Long Ditton Council ...	...	...	...	116	66
Molesey Central Council ...	...	...	...	382	313
Thames Ditton Council ...	...	...	...	287	219
West Molesey Council ...	...	...	...	694	530
Esher Church of England ...	...	...	...	309	265
Cobham Church of England Central ...	...	...	...	200	181
Cobham Church of England ...	...	...	...	212	188
Cobham, Downside Church of England ...	...	...	...	41	38
East Molesey Church of England ...	...	...	...	283	215
Long Ditton Church of England ...	...	...	...	143	115
Oxshott Church of England ...	...	...	...	50	41
			Totals ...	3,510	2,720

The notifications of sickness among the children, obtained from the Head Teachers were as follows :—

	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937
Chickenpox ...	84	232	74	57	188
Impetigo ...	7	2	2	1	7
Mumps ...	32	5	19	93	122
Whooping Cough ...	161	26	85	58	4
Scabies ...	7	1	7	3	1
Ringworm ...	4	4	1	—	—
German Measles ...	9	465	(not given previous yrs.)		
Measles ...	198	177	(not given previous yrs.)		
Vermin and nits ...	4	—	—	—	—

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—The farms, cowsheds and dairies have been periodically inspected, details being given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Greater activity has taken place this year in the procuring of samples of milk for submission to bacteriological and biological tests for tubercle bacilli. A total of 76 samples was taken including samples of pasteurised milk for the phosphatase test to ascertain that the process of pasteurisation has been properly carried out.

The work in connection with milk supplies has been fully justified as the following will show:—

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Samples submitted to full bacteriological, microscopical and biological test ...	19	10	9†
Samples submitted for the detection of tubercle bacilli ...	46	42	4†
Samples submitted for phosphatase test ...	7	7	—
Samples submitted for other examination ...	4	4	—
	76	63	13

† Two of the samples submitted for the full examination showed the presence of tubercle bacilli in the biological test and four of the samples of milk submitted for tubercle bacilli examination only were found to be positive, a total of six samples.

In the case of these six samples the County Medical Officer of Health and the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were immediately informed.

The herds were examined by the Veterinary Inspector and as a result no fewer than seven cows were detected to be suffering from tuberculosis and destroyed.

(b) *Meat and other Foods.*—Details of the inspection of meat and other foods are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

(c) *Adulteration of Foods, etc.*—Full details of administration for the year are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.—There was a decrease in the incidence of Scarlet Fever, 22 cases being notified, a rate of .48 per 1,000 population. All cases except 4 were treated in hospital.

Diphtheria.—Ten cases, two of whom died, have been notified during the year, giving a rate of .22 per 1,000 population.

The progress of the immunisation scheme described in a previous report has been satisfactory.

The following number of children were immunised :—

Number of cases completing treatment during the year (pre-school children 299, school children 916)	1,215
Number of cases failing to attend for the complete course (pre-school children 15, school children 19)	34
Number of cases treated by private doctors under Council's scheme (pre-school children 305, school children 184)	489
Number of cases treated by private doctors under Council's scheme (not completed)	Nil

Measles.—The incidence of Measles was fairly heavy especially in the second quarter of the year. A total of 399 cases was notified, among which were two deaths.

Adult serum was requested and supplied in 3 cases.

Whooping Cough.—The incidence of Whooping Cough was also heavy. A total of 400 cases was notified.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.—Six cases were notified during the year, 1 proving fatal.

Food Poisoning.—Fourteen cases of suspected food poisoning were reported during the year. On investigation there was no evidence in any case that the illness was caused by food.

Scabies.—In common with most other districts a tiresome problem which developed during the year was the prevalence of scabies. As there is no cleansing and disinfecting station in the district and admission to hospital was impracticable in the great majority of cases the best means possible for treating the disease in the home had to be devised.

One of the most important points in the treatment of scabies is that the family should be treated as a whole, and in order to attain that end the Public Health Department assumed complete responsibility in most cases for investigation, treatment and following up in the home.

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1941.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	AGE PERIODS													Cases admitted Hospital	Total Cases Notified in each Locality (e.g. Parish or Ward of the District)							
		Under 1														Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Esher	Claygate	Cobham	Stoke d'Abernethy	East Molesey	West Molesey
		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and Over											
Scarlet Fever	22	1	1	4	2		9	2	2	1				18	4	2	3	2		1	5	5	
Diphtheria ...	10		2	1		3	1			2	1			10	1	2	2	2			2	1	
Pneumonia ...	24	1			1	4				4	4	8	2	3	2	1	7	5	3		4	2	
Anterior Polio-myelitis	1																	1					
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1													1		1							
Encephalitis lethargica	1						1							1			1						
Suspected Food Poisoning	14						1			2	1	5	5			12	2						
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2									1	1					1				1			
Enteric Fever	1										1						1						
Erysipelas ...	6							1	1		2	1	1	2		1		2	1	1	1	1	
Cerebro-spinal Fever	6		1							1	4			5	2		1		3				
Paratyphoid B. ...	1										1			1			1						
Measles ...	399	5	29	26	36	35	21	1	25	7	13	10	2	14	20	11	34	47	200	8	14	65	
Whooping Cough ...	400	22	33	35	48	49	188	15	3	4	2	1		17	83	58	49	24	112	7	20	47	
Totals ...	888	28	65	64	89	87	418	44	14	33	21	17	8	72	112	89	101	83	320	16	46	121	

	Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Whooping Cough.		Pneumonia		Suspected Food Poisoning.		Cerebro-spinal Fever.		Measles.		Puerperal Pyrexia.		Paratyphoid B.		Erysipelas.		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Anterior Polio-myelitis		Enteric Fever		Encephalitis lethargica		Totals.	
January	2	1	14	7		1	17	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44
February	3	1	16	4	1	—	39	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65
March	2	1	16	3	—	1	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	51
April	—	—	27	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60
May	1	—	25	1	—	1	185	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	214
June	6	2	118	1	12	—	65	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	206
July	1	—	85	1	—	2	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	105
August	2	2	57	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63
September	1	—	18	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	22
October	1	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
November	2	1	14	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
December	1	1	6	2	—	—	16	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
Totals	22	10	400	24	14	6	399	2	1	6	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	88

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES :—

PREMISES.	Inspections	Number of		Occupiers
		Written	Notices	Prosecuted
1.	2	3	4	
Factories with mechanical Power	55	...	—	...
Factories without power	4	...	—	...
Totals	59	...	—	...

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES :—

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
1	2	3	4	5
Want of Cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences				
Insufficient ...	2	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	—	—
Other Offences— (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937) ...	—	—	—	—
	8	8	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1941.

June, 1942.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Esher.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my twelfth Annual Report upon the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1941.

The report is compiled in accordance with the directions contained in a memorandum from the Ministry of Health and as required by Article XXVII (18) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1935.

It follows the lines of previous reports and, with one or two exceptions, is tabulated.

COMPLAINTS.

During the year under review one hundred complaints were received and all were investigated.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Number of houses and premises inspected (ordinary) ...	349
Number of houses and premises re-inspected ...	442
Number of miscellaneous visits	282
Number of visits to works in progress	134
Number of visits to slaughterhouses	4
Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops ...	205
Number of visits to bakehouses	115
Number of visits to factories with mechanical power ...	55
Number of visits to factories without mechanical power	4
Number of visits to offices	2
Number of visits re disinfection	141
Number of visits re cases of infectious disease ...	639
Number of visits re disinfestation	120
Number of visits re Shops Act, 1912 to 1936	25

Visits re Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936)	...	...	11
Visits to Schools	...	...	99
Visits to Outworkers Premises	...	...	5
Visits to Air Raid Shelters	...	...	157
Visits to A.R.P. Depots, Cleansing Stations, etc	...	...	153
Visits re Food and Drugs Acts, 1938	...	...	223
Visits to Watercourses	...	...	10
Visits to Foodshops	...	...	235
Visits to Piggeries	...	...	13
Visits re Water Supply	...	...	36
Visits to War Refugees	...	...	15
Smoke inspection	...	...	7
Water Sampling visits	...	...	15

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal notices	...	...	62
Abatement notices in respect of nuisances, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	...	...	5

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT:—

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.

Repaired, cleansed, etc	...	...	51
Completely relaid	...	...	7
Partly relaid	...	...	10
Additional provided	...	...	10
Gullies fixed or repaired	...	...	5
Cesspools emptied and abolished	...	...	2
Intercepted from sewer	...	...	1
House subsoil drained	...	...	1

MANHOLES.

New provided	...	...	11
New covers fixed	...	...	4

VENTILATING SHAFTS.

Additional provided	...	...	1
New mica flap valves fixed	...	...	1

SOIL PIPES.

Repaired	...	...	1
Additional provided	...	...	1

WATER CLOSETS.

Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New pans fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Pans cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
New flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Internal walls rendered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lighted or ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Seats repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
External walls rendered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coiling repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

SINKS, BATHS, ETC.

Additional baths, sinks, lavatory basins	3
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

WASTE PIPES, ETC.

New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

RAINWATER PIPES.

Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

WATER SUPPLY.

Water re-instated or laid on	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Service pipes repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Draw off taps disconnected	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

PAVING.

Yards paved	1
-------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

DUST RECEPTACLES.

Provided	5
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

DAMPNESS.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Eaves gutters provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ventilation provided under floor	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
External walls pointed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
External walls rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
House walls treated with solution	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Sills repaired, weathered or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Damp proof courses fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Site of house concreted	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

GENERAL REPAIRS.

Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
House floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	16
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	9
Ranges and coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Internal walls repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	16
Chimney stacks repointed	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	4
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	1

FOOD.

As reported last year the usual slaughtering of animals in this district as carried out in peace-time has ceased and there is no "central" slaughterhouse in your Council's area. An animal is occasionally slaughtered by permission of the Food Executive Officer of the Esher Food Control Committee, and this usually takes place at one of the slaughterhouses.

Regular inspection of meat and other food has however been continued by frequent visits to shops.

Appended is a list giving in some detail the class and amount of food found unfit for human consumption.

In some cases this food was able to be utilised for animal feeding, or in compliance with instructions from the Ministry of Food, the material was returned through the suppliers to the recognised salvage organisation, whilst in a few cases, it was necessary that it should be completely destroyed.

This last measure was only taken when no other course could possibly be found to be expedient or safe.

The following table shows the number of visits to slaughterhouses and shops for the purpose of food inspection and the comparison of the number of these visits during the year under review with the years 1939 and 1940 is interesting :—

	1939	1940	1941
To slaughterhouses	448	37	4
To food shops	154	390	235

The following number of carcasses were examined -

Sheep	3
Pigs	45
	<hr/> 48

There were ten slaughtermen on the Register at the end of the year.

The following diseased or otherwise unsound meat and food was either surrendered, destroyed or dealt with as mentioned above.

AS A RESULT OF GENERAL INSPECTION.

	cwt.	qr.	lbs.	
Rolled oats	2	0	0	Mouldy
Tomato Purée	11	1	8	Unsound
Corned beef		2	11	Unsound
Mutton (10 sheep)	2	2	8	Bruising & laceration
Sausages			27	Sour
Brawn		1	5	Sour
Ox Head			26	Decomposed
Calves Tails			4	Unsound
Boneless beef		2	8	Unsound
Pig's head (1)			15	Tuberculosis
Butter			17½	Rancid
Sheep liver			2	Distoma Hepaticum
Spagetti, Tomato and Cheese (6 tins)				Unsound
Rabbits		1	12	Unsound
Sugar		2	6	Returned for re-processing
Almonds	2	2	14	Unsound
Evaporated Milk (1857 tins)	15	3	1	Unsound
Smoked haddocks			14	Unsound
Lobster			3	Unsound
Golden fillets			14	Unsound
Tinned Fruits			8½	Unsound
Tinned vegetables			12	Unsound
Large Loaves (8)				Mouldy

1 ton 17 cwt. 3 qrs. 14 lbs.

AS A RESULT OF AIR RAID DAMAGE

3 Parcels of Assorted Food

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Sampling of Food and Drugs.—The sampling of food and drugs throughout the district for submission to the Council's Public Analyst, Mr. Ed. Hinks, F.I.C., has been well maintained as is shown by the following details :—

A total of 162 samples was obtained and with the Registrar General's population figure of 45,310 for mid-June gives an average of rather more than 3.5 samples per 1,000, a slightly higher figure than last year.

The following table gives the details of the food and drugs samples obtained :—

					Formal	Informal
Apple juice	...	...	...	...	—	1
Beer	...	...	...	...	4	—
Bleach ointment	...	...	...	...	—	1
Butter	...	...	...	...	11	1
Cascara sagrada tablets	...	...	...	...	—	1
" Chief Egg "	...	...	...	...	—	1
Chutney	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	—	1
Coffee	...	...	...	...	—	1
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	—	2
Curry Paste	...	...	...	...	—	1
Dessert powder	...	...	...	...	—	1
Egg substitute	...	...	...	...	—	1
Epsom salts	...	...	...	...	—	1
Figs—Compound syrup of	...	...	...	...	—	1
Flour—Self Raising	...	...	...	...	—	1
Ground ginger	...	...	...	...	—	1
Halibut liver oil pastiles	...	...	...	...	—	1
Indigestion tablets	...	...	...	...	—	1
Iodine—Tincture of	...	...	...	...	—	1
Jam	...	...	...	...	—	3
" Lemexa "	...	...	...	...	—	1
Margarine	...	...	...	...	—	1
Meat Paste	...	...	...	...	—	2
Milk	...	...	...	...	59	36
Mixed spice	...	...	...	...	—	1
Mustard mixture	...	...	...	...	—	1
Olive Oil	...	...	...	...	—	1
Onion extract	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pepper	...	...	...	...	—	1
Peppermint—Essence of	...	...	...	...	—	1
Powdered rhubarb	...	...	...	...	—	1
Rice flakes	...	...	...	...	—	1
" Sagion "	...	...	...	...	—	1
" Sucron "	...	...	...	...	—	1
Sugar	...	...	...	...	—	1
" Sugaro "	...	...	...	...	1	1

Sweetened Custard	...	...	...	—	1
Table Jelly	...	...	...	—	1
Table salt	...	...	...	—	1
Thyme	...	...	...	—	1
Tea	...	...	...	—	2
Tinned French Beans	...	...	...	—	1
Tinned meat and vegetable dinner	...	...	...	—	1
Tomato ketchup	...	...	...	—	1
Vinegar, malt	...	...	...	—	2
Whiskey	...	...	...	1	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				76	86
				<hr/>	<hr/>

A total of 162 :— Genuine 155. Not genuine 7.

It will be seen that more informal samples have been taken than usual; this has been due to the sampling of food substitutes, etc., and where these were adversely reported upon they were followed up by formal sampling.

The following statement gives details of those samples adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst and the action taken thereon.

Sample No. Article (F—formal). (I—informal)	Details of irregularity.	Action Taken.
40 Milk (F)	9% added water.	Legal proceedings brought. Fined £10 and £5 ss. costs.
47 "Sugaro" (I)	Misleading statement on label.	Formal sample purchased.
61 "Sugaro" (F)	Misleading statement on label.	Legal proceedings brought. Fined £50 and £10 10s. costs.
78 Milk (I)	18% deficient in milk fat.	Verbal warning given to vendor.
125 Milk (I)	21% deficient in milk fat.	Letter sent to the County School Medical Officer.*
149 Margarine (I)	Sample contained Boric acid, or borates expressed as boric acid 0.2%	No action taken.†
158 Sweetened Custard (I)	Sample contained Saccharin 0.04%	No offence was committed under the Food and Drugs Act, as the sweetening substance used was not declared.

* This was a sample of milk taken informally in the ordinary course of sampling from a local Council School. It was the remainder of the contents of a pint bottle of milk given to the children under the Milk in Schools scheme.

The first part of the milk had been given to a child, the Sampling Officer had a portion, leaving the remainder for another child.

The bottle apparently had not been shaken to mix the milk before being opened.

A letter was sent to the County School Medical Officer drawing his attention to this omission.

+ Although under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 an offence has been committed, legal proceedings were not taken as the Ministry of Food under The Margarine (Addition of Borax) Order, 1940 allow by licence the addition of 0.25% of borax. This position is conflicting and unsatisfactory.

The Local Food Office verified that all Margarine Manufacturers had been licenced under the Order.

FACTORIES.

The number of visits paid under the Factories Act, 1937, was 175 :—

115 to Bakehouses.

56 to Factories with mechanical power.

4 to Factories without mechanical power.

There are 128 premises on the register with mechanical power and 142 premises on the register without mechanical power. Nineteen Bakehouses have mechanical power and 11 are without mechanical power.

There are no underground bakehouses.

SHOPS ACT, 1912—1936.

The number of visits paid under the above Act was 25.

Very few complaints were received as to contravention of the Shops Acts, but in every case the complaint was investigated.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of the year there were fifty persons on the Register as follows :—

Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Retail Purveyors and Producers of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Wholesale Producers only	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Milkshops in the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Retail Purveyors of Milk residing outside the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
							<hr/> 50 <hr/>

There are nineteen Cowkeepers in the district and the average numbers of milch cows kept by them is 546.

The dairy farms are situate in the following Wards :—

Claygate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cobham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Esher	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Stoke d'Abernon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Thames Ditton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
								<hr/> 23 <hr/>

Two farms have been taken off the register owing to the discontinuance of the keeping of cows.

At the end of the year there were fifteen farms which were producing "Accredited" Milk, the cowkeepers of which had been placed on the Roll of Accredited Producers.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops have been periodically inspected and the half-yearly linewashing of the cowsheds has been carried out.

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, have been issued as follows :—

Dealers' Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	7
Dealers' Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	11
Licences to "Pasteurise" Milk	2
Supplementary Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	3
Supplementary Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	3
Dealers' Licences to bottle "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	1

DISINFECTION.

During the year disinfection has been carried out at various premises after the following :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	22
Diphtheria	...	...	10
Tuberculosis	...	...	29
Cancer	...	...	11
Scabies	...	...	15
Para-typhoid B.	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia		...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	12
			<hr/>
Total			101
			<hr/>

Bedding and articles of clothing have been taken from 61 houses and 10 Institutions in the district to the Tolworth Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection at the request of the occupier, and from four houses infectious bedding was removed and destroyed upon request from the occupier.

In addition the following bedding and clothing was taken for steam disinfection :—

Home Guard Headquarters	1
Hurst Park	...
Sandown Park	...
Fairmile Establishment	...

SPRAYING PONDS AND DITCHES.

The systematic spraying of ponds, ditches, water-courses and water holes in the district with Mosquito Oil has been carried out as in previous years.

The foregoing indicates the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors as such but does not by any means represent all of their work for the year.

Civil Defence has claimed a considerable part of their time, both during and outside "office hours" and they are engaged in that part of this important service as is appropriate to their experience and training.

The essential Public Health Services which they are primarily called upon to perform have however not been neglected or allowed to suffer, except perhaps in one respect, viz :—the routine work of house to house inspection, which has been curtailed owing to the exigencies of the war.

Complaints of insanitary conditions have always received prompt attention and the opportunity has been taken to get repairs carried out in this manner, but scarcity of labour and materials which are being used for the national effort has limited even this activity.

I desire to place on record the loyal support given by all in the Department and to thank the officers and staffs in the other Departments of the Council for their ready co-operation and helpfulness.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD F. WHEELER.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

